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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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January 31, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director and Members of BDAC  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 9th St., Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Steve Ritchie and BDAC members:

In moving ahead with a Record of Decision (ROD) CALFED will be accelerating the rate of implementation of CALFED's plan and the development of site specific environmental assessments. However, CALFED has long recognized that there are many uncertainties in the science and technology that will govern the success of our efforts, and that the interrelations and conflicts among many worthy goals are so complex that they will take a long time to sort out and balance among conflicting needs for limited resources. There has not even been time to make the needed analyses of consequences of the preferred alternative that are within our existing knowledge base. These analyses must therefore be made and site specific EA's must be impartially assessed for their compliance with the broad goals and principles of CALFED and with the balance among needs in the use of limited resources that are essential to CALFED's overall achievement.

I propose, therefore, that the ROD include a preamble which acknowledges these uncertainties, the need for further analyses, and the anticipation that there will be alterations and additions to the plan which will go beyond mere refinements. The ROD should define the analytical and balancing process, and the principles that will govern the evolution of the plan. The attached draft of an ROD preamble illustrates what I am suggesting.

Sincerely,



Alex Hildebrand